LIBERUM

UK | Real Estate | Real Estate | PHP LN | Market Cap £1.5bn | 25 March 2019^

Primary Health Properties Accelerating scale benefits



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The merger of PHP and MedicX creates a sector leading owner of primary healthcare properties. The addition of MedicX's best in class assets complements an already high quality portfolio and accelerates benefits of scale. We believe the enlarged group is well placed to profit from an increasing shift towards primary healthcare as well as growth opportunities in Ireland. However, a 16% rise in the share price YTD sees the shares fairly valued at 1.23x CY19 P/NAV with a 4.3% yield. We increase our target price from 125p to 130p, but downgrade to HOLD (from Buy).

Consistent returns & merger

- FY18 NAV +4.4% to 105p, in line
- EPS flat & DPS +2.9%, in line
- £800m of assets acquired through MedicX merger

Long-term low-risk growth

- Long-term structural demand for primary care (and GP properties)
- Long rental agreements (13yr avg) linked (and lagged) to inflation
- Low risk tenants (~90% govt.)

Accelerating DPS growth

Accelerating scale benefits

- Merger combines two high quality portfolios
- Accelerates operational efficiency
- Medium-term opportunity to reduce cost of capital

Premium reflects lower risk

- Forecast 3yr 6% p.a. avg. total returns (NAV + dividends)
- returns (NAV + dividends)
 CY19E P/NAV 1.23x, sector 0.87x
- CY19E DPS yield 4.3%
- TP increased from 125p to 130p





Summary Financials & Valuation (£m) FY - December year end

EV (FY)	18A	19E	20E	21E
Market cap	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460
Net debt/(cash)	677	1,188	1,277	1,363
Pension & other adj.	0	0	0	0
EV	2,136	2,648	2,736	2,822
Valuation (CY)	18A	19E	20E	21E
P/NAV (x)	1.23	1.23	1.21	1.21
EV/EBITDA (x)	32.1	25.5	22.7	21.8
EV/EBIT (x)	32.1	25.5	22.7	21.8
P/E (x)	24.8	22.1	21.1	19.6
Div Yield (%)	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.7
FCF Yield (%)	2.7	2.5	4.7	5.1
Financials (FY)	18A	19E	20E	21E
Gross revenue	79.6	118	136	145
Adj EBITDA	66.5	104	120	129
Adj EBIT	66.5	104	120	129
EBIT margin (%)	83.5	88.2	88.8	89.0
Adj PBT	36.8	61.6	69.3	74.8
Adj EPS (p)	5.2	5.8	6.1	6.6

Leverage (FY)	18A	19E	20E	21E
Net debt/(cash)	677	1,188	1,277	1,363
LTV (%)	45.2	49.4	50.7	52.2
Interest cover (x)	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.4

5.4

105.1

5.6

104.3 106.2

5.8

6.1

106.2

Source: Liberum, Bloomberg

DPS (p)

NAV (p)



Source: Liberum, Company.

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(from BUY)

Next events

Q1 update

TP 130p (from 125p) Publication price 128.8p

April 2019

Company dashboard



PHP is a REIT focused on the UK & Irish primary healthcare sector. The group invests in healthcare real estate and works alongside GP's, the NHS and associated healthcare business (e.g. pharmacies and NHS Trusts) to develop and manage purpose built healthcare facilities. Properties are generally leased to government on long-term direct or indirect leases.



Structural requirement for investment in primary care Unsuitable quality of existing GP premises

Expansion into Ireland

Land & cost inflation provides basis for rental growth

13 year average unexpired lease length

Rent roll backed by NHS & Irish HSE

Accelerated scale efficiencies from MedicX merger



Sustained period of sub-inflationary rental growth Delays in new development approvals External fee structure reduces operating leverage Irish expansion risk (FX, tenant covenant)





Equivalent yield



Key Sensitivities

Driver	Change	Impact on NAV
Yield shift	+/- 10bp	+/- 4.0%
ERV growth	+/- 1%	+/- 0.7%

How the target price is generated

We use a return on equity analysis to inform our increased target price of 130p from 125p, detailed at the end of the note.

Peer group valuation

Name	Price	Mkt Cap	Rec.	Target	P/NA	V (x)	P/E	(x)	Div Yie	ld (%)	Div Cov	ver (x)	EV/EB	IT (x)	FCFe Yie	eld (%)
	(£)	(£m)		(£)	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20
Assura	0.57	1,367	HOLD	0.66	1.06	1.04	19.7	18.5	4.9	5.0	1.0	1.1	23.2	22.6	5.1	5.4
Big Yellow	9.76	1,627	HOLD	9.00	1.42	1.39	22.3	20.9	3.6	3.8	1.3	1.3	24.0	22.6	4.7	5.1
British Land	5.90	5,606	HOLD	5.85	0.70	0.72	18.0	17.7	5.4	5.5	1.0	1.0	23.4	23.3	3.7	3.7
CapCo	2.44	2,078	HOLD	3.00	0.75	0.73	n.a.	n.a.	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	102.2	79.1	1.0	1.3
CLS Holdings*	2.47	1,004	BUY	3.00	0.78	0.75	18.3	17.7	2.9	3.0	1.9	1.9	22.5	21.9	5.1	5.3
Derwent London	31.70	3,536	HOLD	31.00	0.83	0.83	30.6	26.7	2.3	2.5	1.4	1.5	33.6	30.0	2.9	3.5
Great Portland Estates	7.51	2,044	HOLD	7.05	0.86	0.86	44.4	43.3	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.2	39.3	38.7	2.1	2.1
Hammerson	3.41	2,609	HOLD	3.90	0.50	0.49	12.4	11.8	7.6	7.6	1.1	1.1	25.5	22.2	3.3	3.3
Hansteen	0.93	383	HOLD	1.05	0.88	0.84	18.1	17.7	5.1	5.1	1.1	1.1	18.2	17.4	6.9	7.1
Harworth*	1.30	418	BUY	1.70	0.82	0.76	36.0	35.5	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.3	29.5	29.3	2.0	1.3
Intu	1.05	1,424	SELL	1.00	0.40	0.42	9.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	13.5	13.6	9.3	10.0
Land Securities	9.13	6,773	BUY	10.00	0.70	0.71	15.5	15.5	5.3	5.4	1.2	1.2	19.9	20.1	6.3	6.2
LondonMetric	1.95	1,365	HOLD	1.80	1.09	1.08	21.9	21.4	4.3	4.4	1.1	1.1	25.7	25.4	3.9	4.0
NewRiver*	2.18	663	BUY	3.00	0.86	0.87	10.2	9.7	10.1	10.3	1.0	1.0	14.6	14.2	9.4	9.7
PHP	1.29	1,460	HOLD	1.30	1.23	1.21	22.1	21.1	4.3	4.5	1.0	1.1	25.5	22.7	2.5	4.7
Real Estate Investors*	0.52	97	BUY	0.75	0.73	0.72	12.9	12.4	7.3	7.7	1.1	1.1	17.3	16.8	7.7	8.1
Safestore	5.90	1,239	BUY	6.50	1.40	1.31	20.8	19.2	2.9	3.2	1.7	1.7	20.4	18.8	5.3	5.8
Segro	6.61	7,171	BUY	7.50	0.96	0.92	28.4	26.2	3.0	3.1	1.2	1.2	31.2	29.5	3.3	3.6
Shaftesbury*	8.89	2,733	HOLD	10.50	0.88	0.85	48.4	44.5	2.0	2.1	1.0	1.0	39.8	38.0	2.0	2.1
St Modwen	4.05	901	BUY	4.65	0.81	0.76	24.1	17.9	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	18.6	14.1	8.0	10.0
Town Centre Securities*	2.13	113	BUY	3.00	0.61	0.59	17.8	17.0	5.6	5.6	1.0	1.0	22.6	23.7	3.8	3.6
Tritax Big Box	1.44	2,453	HOLD	1.55	0.93	0.90	21.7	20.3	4.8	4.9	1.0	1.0	27.4	25.7	4.7	5.1
U+I*	1.85	232	BUY	2.80	0.60	0.58	8.7	9.8	7.5	6.9	1.5	1.5	10.0	10.7	10.2	9.1
Unite	9.08	2,392	HOLD	9.50	1.00	0.95	21.9	20.8	4.0	4.2	1.1	1.2	22.9	21.6	4.4	(0.8)
Workspace*	9.87	1,780	BUY	12.25	0.88	0.86	22.6	20.2	3.6	4.0	1.2	1.2	24.1	22.1	4.6	5.2
Simple average		2,059			0.87	0.85	21.9	20.6	4.1	4.2	1.3	1.3	27.0	25.0	4.9	5.0
Weighted average					0.86	0.84	22.5	21.1	3.8	4.0	1.2	1.2	29.2	27.0	4.2	4.3

Source: Liberum, Bloomberg, Company. *Liberum corporate client

Low-risk long-term structural growth

We expect PHP's portfolio to benefit from long-term steady structural growth, as a growing and ageing UK population combines with efforts to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the NHS by expanding the scope of services provided by GPs. The merger combines two high quality portfolios and accelerates scale efficiencies.

- Rising structural demand for primary care There is growing structural demand for primary care (GP services), given an expanding and ageing population which has recurrent healthcare needs. National Health Service (NHS) budget constraints create additional pressure to deliver a wider range of services through GP practices.
- Ageing estate in need of modernisation Demand for primary care
 properties is aided by restrictions on supply. Many GP practices are also
 increasingly too small to accommodate the rising volume or broadening
 scope of care services required. PHP focuses on larger, dominant and
 strategically important GP practices. Larger fit-for-purpose buildings allow
 greater patient, organisational and cost benefits to the healthcare system,
 reducing strain on A&E and the wider NHS.
- Accelerated scale benefits The acquired MedicX portfolio provides significant opportunity to crystallise benefits of increased scale faster than would otherwise be achievable. Over the medium-term the enlarged group is also well positioned to benefit from a lower cost of capital. This should help accelerate dividend growth.
- High quality and secure income stream PHP's focus on primary care properties results in high visibility over income due to long rental agreements (pro forma ~13yrs avg., with 20yr+ on new leases), which are largely backed by the NHS or Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland. ~30% of rents are also explicitly linked to fixed uplifts, RPI or CPI. Development activity is similarly low-risk given it is only undertaken when a GP pre-let has been agreed.
- Slowly improving LFL growth, enhanced by acquisition We expect market LFL rental growth to improve as new developments provide evidence of recent land and build cost inflation, which provides the basis for open market rent reviews on the remaining ~70% of leases. In addition, acquisitions and forward funded developments should enhance growth and attract further scale benefits.
- Ireland expansion opportunity PHP is now the only listed primary healthcare REIT to invest in Ireland and this provides an additional attractive market for growth. Ireland has similar favourable demand and supply dynamics to the UK and a low-risk, high-covenant income stream (largely backed by the HSE). In contrast to the UK, purchase yields in Ireland have seen less compression and hence represent higher returns.
- High financial leverage supported by low risk income PHP's pro forma LTV stands at a relatively high 47%, but allows adequate headroom to a 60% limit and is supported by the low risk nature of the industry's rental income. Interest cover is 2.6x. We see further opportunity to reduce PHP's 3.9% average cost of debt as the enlarged group benefits from scale.

Consistently strong returns in FY18

FY18 figures were broadly in line with our forecasts with continued improvement in rental growth and yield compression aiding a 4.4% rise in EPRA NAV. Total returns through the year remained a strong 9.7% following a 2.9% increase in the dividend. The accretive deployment of capital as well as associated scale efficiencies of the MedicX merger provides a platform for further income growth.

Key points from the figures:

- EPRA NAV +4.4% EPRA NAV was +4.4% to 105.1p, in line with our forecast and aided by a +2.5% valuation gain and successful £115m inyear equity raise at a 7% premium to Dec 17 NAV.
- **EPRA EPS flat** EPRA EPS remained flat 5.2p, in line with our forecast following the equity raise, lower LTV and selective asset purchases throughout the year.
- +2.5% valuation gain driven by rental growth A +2.5% like for like property revaluation gain was driven by improving LfL rental growth of 1.8% (60%) and continued yield compression from 4.91% to 4.85% (40%).
- Accretive capital deployment PHP acquired eight properties through the year for a total of £106.2m at an average lot size of £13.3m. Acquisitions weighted to Ireland and the use of forward funded developments ensured investments were accretive to net income.
- **DPS +2.9%** As forecast DPS increased +2.9% to 5.4p. While declared dividend cover dropped below 100% following the equity raise, we expect full cover to be reached in the near term. On a paid basis the dividend remained fully covered.
- Reduced financial leverage Following the £115m April fundraise LTV reduced from 52.9% to 44.8%, providing firepower to the group's historic average and 60% LTV limit. Average cost of debt reduced further through the year from 4.09% to 3.90% increasing interest cover to 2.6x (2.25x FY17)
- **Post-period end MedicX merger** Post-period end PHP completed an all-share merger with MedicX. PHP issued 341m shares, valuing MedicX at 88.7p; a 14.3% premium to its undisturbed share price and an 8.5% premium to FY18 NAV. The merger combines two high quality portfolios and accelerates scale efficiencies.

Forecast NAV -1% and EPS +4%

We decrease our NAV estimates by ~1% and increase EPS by ~4% to reflect FY18 results and the earnings accretive all-share merger.

Figure 1: Summary forecast changes (£m)

		2019E			2020E		2021E
	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	New
Key assumptions							
True equivalent yield	5.0%	5.0%	0bp	5.0%	5.0%	0bp	5.0%
LFL rental growth	1.7%	1.7%	0bp	2.1%	2.0%	-5bp	2.2%
Income statement							
Gross Rental Income	82.7	117.8	+42.5%	89.9	135.6	+50.8%	145.3
Growth (%)	6.6%	48.0%	+4137bp	8.7%	15.1%	+633bp	7.2%
Net Operating Income	81.2	114.6	+41.1%	88.3	131.8	+49.3%	141.1
NOI margin (%)	98.3%	97.3%	-100bp	98.2%	97.2%	-100bp	97.2%
EBITDA	72.1	104.0	+44.3%	78.7	120.3	+52.9%	129.4
PBT, adj	44.3	61.7	+39.1%	47.0	69.4	+47.8%	75.0
EPRA EPS (p)	5.6	5.8	+4.3%	5.9	6.1	+3.4%	6.6
DPS (p)	5.6	5.6	0.0%	5.7	5.8	+1.8%	6.1
Other							
EPRA NAV	837.4	1,188.7	+42.0%	849.6	1,212.8	+42.8%	1,216.3
Net (debt) / cash	(756.0)	(1,183.6)	+56.6%	(858.5)	(1,271.9)	+48.2%	(1,357.8)
EPRA NAV (p)	105.5	104.7	-0.7%	106.8	106.6	-0.1%	106.7
LTV (%)	47.2%	49.2%	+4.3%	50.0%	50.5%	+1.0%	52.0%

Source: Liberum

We downgrade NAV by ~1% to reflect a FY18 results, the MedicX merger and ~225m of one-off merger related costs.

Our NAV estimates also factor a +1.7% annualised rental uplift in FY19E, an increase on the 1.4% achieved in FY18, which should be supported by comparable new build evidence. Cautiously we forecast yields to remain flat.

We increase our EPRA EPS forecasts +4% to reflect the accretive impact of acquiring MedicX. This is primarily driven by the addition of MedicX's substantial asset base at a low 0.225% management fee. Given accelerated earnings progression we raise our 2020 and 2021 dividend growth rate from ~3% to ~5% with full cover in both years.

On our updated forecasts we expect 6% average total returns over our three year forecast horizon. This remains attractive in comparison to the wider UK real estate sector, is low risk and could be enhanced by further capital growth.



Figure 2: Total returns (NAV growth + dividends)

Source: Liberum, Company

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High quality portfolio

The addition of MedicX complements an already high quality portfolio with the youngest, largest and longest-leased primary healthcare estate. This provides a platform for long-term attractive returns.

The all-share merger between PHP and MedicX completed on 14th March 2019. For each MedicX share, MedicX shareholders received 0.77 PHP shares, resulting in the issuance of 341m new PHP shares.

Based on PHP's 115.2p closing share price (a +9.6% premium to FY18 NAV) the merger valued MedicX shares at 88.7p or a £392.9m market cap; a 14.3% premium to its undisturbed share price and an 8.5% premium to FY18 NAV. The enlarged group now has a market cap of ~£1.5bn and a NAV of ~£1.2bn.

MedicX's portfolio of 166 primary care properties includes 161 across the UK and 5 in Ireland.

Similar to PHP the group focuses on larger lot sizes, in order to align its portfolio with the rising volumes and broadening scope of services increasingly provided by GPs. Larger fit-for-purpose buildings allow greater patient, organisational and cost benefits to the healthcare system, reducing strain on A&E and the wider NHS. We believe this strategy will drive superior value in the long term.

The combined portfolio has 479 assets (13 in Ireland) with an average lot size of \pounds 4.8m and ~1,300sqm. This has gradually increased over time and compares favourably to Assura from both a capital value and space perspective.





Source: Company data

Source: Company data, Liberum estimates



The acquired portfolio is also relatively modern, making it more aligned to today's primary care requirements, with an average age per asset of nine years. MedicX's portfolio will also increase PHP's average lease length to 13.4 years, again ahead of Assura.



Figure 6: Weighted average lease length vs. Assura (years)



Source: Company data

Given a greater London concentration, the MedicX merger will also serve to proportionally increase exposure to this region. We see this as a positive given rents have lagged build cost and land inflation most significantly in the capital. As a result any new build evidence is likely to provide strong evidence for accelerated rental growth.



Source: Company data

In this respect, the recent outturn of a MedicX arbitration in London is positive and provides rental evidence for the nearby area. The determination concluded that the rent due for the group's major asset in Clapham should have increased by 35% from March 2015, equating to a compounded 10.5% p.a. increase over the 3 year rent review period.

The opportunity for capital recycling through FY19 provides a way to further improve these metrics.

Source: Company data

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Accelerating scale benefits

The MedicX portfolio also provides opportunity to crystallise benefits of increased scale faster than would otherwise be achievable. Over the medium term the enlarged group is also well positioned to benefit from a lower cost of capital.

The combined portfolio will immediately benefit from lower investment management fees. Nexus will charge a flat fee of 0.225% on MedicX assets over the first five years; compared with MedicX's average of 0.43% in FY18. This is expected to result in ~2.5m of cost savings p.a.

In addition PHP are targeting a further £1m of operational efficiencies within the enlarged group. PHP has a strong record of achieving one of the lowest EPRA cost ratios in the sector. Following a full year of integration management expect the EPRA cost ratio to fall to 12%, in line with Assura.



Figure 8: Last reported EPRA cost ratio

Source: Liberum, Company data. *Company estimate

In addition to operating leverage we see opportunity for PHP to improve financing terms and flexibility over the long-term.

While cost of debt has steadily fallen across the listed sub-sector, Assura has demonstrated that scale provides the greatest means to meaningfully lower financing costs. The addition of the MedicX portfolio should allow the group to add cheaper debt and greater flexibility.



Source: Liberum, Company data

Improving organic growth

We expect PHP's LFL rental growth to steadily improve as an increase in developments provides evidence to raise open market rents and recent inflationary pressure supports indexed rents.

Primary care provides a strong covenant with almost 90% of annual rent government backed (with GPs reimbursed by the NHS in the UK and the HSE in the Republic of Ireland).



Source: Company data

Source: Company data

While rent reviews are being increasingly aligned to inflationary indices, the majority are still decided by open market reviews.

Open market rent reviews are agreed with District Valuers, which rely heavily on rents set on new developments. New development rents reflect both the costs of development (land and building) and an agreed developer margin.

However, a hiatus in new development approvals, following the 2013 NHS reorganisation into Clinical Commissioning Groups, resulted in a period of fewer developments and hence softer open market reviews, given limited market evidence of the significant construction and land cost inflation witnessed elsewhere in the Real Estate sector. This is evident in PHP and MedicX's recent rental growth.

The outlook is now much more promising for growth: recent inflationary pressure will mechanistically drive indexed rents higher. There is also growing evidence of new developments, which should support improvements in organic rental growth in future.



Source: Company data

Rising long-term structural demand

Underpinning PHP's long-term prospects is a positive secular growth backdrop, with demand for primary care rising due to an expanding and ageing population, and NHS budget constraints adding pressure to deliver a wider range of services through GP practices.

Demand for primary care is principally influenced by age and health. 18% of the UK population is over the age of 65, but this is forecast to rise to 24% by 2041. In addition to an ageing population, there is a growing number of people living with complex long-term conditions which require greater GP resources.





Source: Liberum, ONS Female 90+= 847,000

Medical advances, developments in preventative health and reductions in social care initiatives have also contributed to the increasing trend away from hospitals and towards care in the community - for which primary care is important.

Despite this, the NHS has cut the share of funding for primary care and grown the number of hospital specialists three times faster than GPs. Funding for general practice has declined by 1.6% in real-terms since 2012-13, despite a real-term rise in the NHS budget of 8% over the same period. This has left the current estate unfit for purpose, with only one quarter of GP practices occupying modern purpose-built premises.

Figure 14: Funding allocations in GP services



Source: Public Expenditure, Statistical Analyses, HM Treasury, 2016; Department of Health Annual Report and Accounts, Department of Health, 2013, 2014 and 2016; Deloitte Centre for Health Solutions research and analysis

Figure 15: UK primary care estate by practice number



Source: Liberum, Health & Social Care Information System

Furthermore, research by the National Audit Office suggests significant financial, organisational and patient benefits to investment in the NHS GP practice estate. The cost of a typical visit to a general practice is estimated to be £21, whereas hospitals are paid £124 for an A&E visit. Given the extent of the cost saving, it is estimated that primary care investment would provide a net positive contribution to the NHS budget deficit.

Both the NHS England General Practice Five Year Forward View (5YFV) and the more recent 2017 Naylor Report acknowledged the significant investment required in the primary care estate in order to cater for population growth and facilitate primary care at scale. The reports suggest property should not just be improved or extended, but provide the flexibility to accommodate training, innovations and the use of technology.

Such requirements favour modern, larger and purpose-built practices which PHP has increasingly become weighted towards.

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Irish growth potential

The Irish primary care market provides similar defensive income prospects to the UK market, but with higher returns and expansion potential. A more attractive yield spread, potential maturation of investor demand and CPI linked rent reviews all provide potential for PHP to sustain strong returns, with negligible additional risk.

We believe the Irish market provides an additional attractive market for growth and differentiates PHP from Assura. Ireland has similar favourable demand and supply dynamics to the UK and a low-risk, high-covenant income stream (largely backed by the HSE).

We see a number of reasons why investment in Irish primary care could enhance the return profile of PHP. Based on MedicX's disclosed 6.2% true equivalent yield, income returns are significantly higher in Ireland than the UK; supporting the prospect for yield compression as investors take advantage of the attractive spread and the investment market matures.

Assuming UK assets are 100% government backed (realistically its ~90%) and adjusting a 6.2% equivalent yield on Irish assets for an average 70% HSE backed income suggests the defensive, 20+ year leases to non-government tenants commands a yield of 7.7%. To us this looks excessive and could, in due course, lead to further yield compression as the market expands and matures.

Figure 16: Implied yield on non-government income

	UK	Ireland	Comment
A True equivalent yield	4.99%	6.22%	
B Government backed income	100%	70%	Cautious assumption for the UK (actually ~90%)
C Market implied government backed yield	4.99%	5.59%	Irish yield based on UK + Irish 10-year spread to Bunds
D Non-government backed income	0.0%	30%	1 - B
E Implied yield on non-government income	n.a.	7.69%	(A-(B*C)) / D

Source: Liberum, Company

As well as higher yields, Irish rent reviews are aligned to Irish CPI (compounded every five years). We believe this is an attractive alternative to the district valuer led rent reviews seen in the UK, which have significantly lagged build cost inflation.

Following the merger, PHP has 13 Irish properties representing ~6% of the portfolio. We expect this to continue to rise towards the current 10% (self-imposed) ceiling with 73% of PHP's acquisition spend in 2018 weighted towards Irish assets. Within the Irish portfolio the group has two forward funded developments both expected to complete in FY19 as well as a healthy acquisition pipeline.

Reduced financial leverage

PHP's pro forma LTV stands at 47%, which is lower than recent years and allows adequate headroom to a 60% limit, facilitating further net acquisition spend over our forecast period. It is also supported by the low risk nature of the industry's rental income



Following the £115m April fundraise LTV reduced from 52.9% to 44.8%, but the merger with MedicX increases this level back to 47%.

We forecast LTV to rise steadily through our forecast period as a result of continued net acquisition spend. Nevertheless we expect some rationalisation of the estate (we forecast ~25m of disposals p.a.) as PHP takes advantage of strong investment demand and concentrates the larger portfolio to higher quality assets.

4.3% DPS yield supports valuation

While PHP looks expensive relative to both our forecast total returns and the sector, we would expect the shares to retain their premium, given the low risk nature of the assets and rents. Against an uncertain economic backdrop, PHP's long term Government backed income, yielding 4.3%, provides attraction.



Source: Company data, Liberum

Figure 20: UK real estate valuation

Name	Price M	lkt Cap 🛛 I	Rec.	Target	P/NA	V (x)	P/E	(x)	Div Yie	ld (%)	Div Cov	/er (x)	EV/EB	SIT (x)	FCFe Yie	eld (%)
	(£)	(£m)		(£)	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20	CY 19	CY 20
Assura	0.57	1,367	HOLD	0.66	1.06	1.04	19.7	18.5	4.9	5.0	1.0	1.1	23.2	22.6	5.1	5.4
Big Yellow	9.76	1,627	HOLD	9.00	1.42	1.39	22.3	20.9	3.6	3.8	1.3	1.3	24.0	22.6	4.7	5.1
British Land	5.90	5,606	HOLD	5.85	0.70	0.72	18.0	17.7	5.4	5.5	1.0	1.0	23.4	23.3	3.7	3.7
CapCo	2.44	2,078	HOLD	3.00	0.75	0.73	n.a.	n.a.	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	102.2	79.1	1.0	1.3
CLS Holdings*	2.47	1,004	BUY	3.00	0.78	0.75	18.3	17.7	2.9	3.0	1.9	1.9	22.5	21.9	5.1	5.3
Derwent London	31.70	3,536	HOLD	31.00	0.83	0.83	30.6	26.7	2.3	2.5	1.4	1.5	33.6	30.0	2.9	3.5
Great Portland Estates	7.51	2,044	HOLD	7.05	0.86	0.86	44.4	43.3	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.2	39.3	38.7	2.1	2.1
Hammerson	3.41	2,609	HOLD	3.90	0.50	0.49	12.4	11.8	7.6	7.6	1.1	1.1	25.5	22.2	3.3	3.3
Hansteen	0.93	383	HOLD	1.05	0.88	0.84	18.1	17.7	5.1	5.1	1.1	1.1	18.2	17.4	6.9	7.1
Harworth*	1.30	418	BUY	1.70	0.82	0.76	36.0	35.5	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.3	29.5	29.3	2.0	1.3
Intu	1.05	1,424	SELL	1.00	0.40	0.42	9.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	13.5	13.6	9.3	10.0
Land Securities	9.13	6,773	BUY	10.00	0.70	0.71	15.5	15.5	5.3	5.4	1.2	1.2	19.9	20.1	6.3	6.2
LondonMetric	1.95	1,365	HOLD	1.80	1.09	1.08	21.9	21.4	4.3	4.4	1.1	1.1	25.7	25.4	3.9	4.0
NewRiver*	2.18	663	BUY	3.00	0.86	0.87	10.2	9.7	10.1	10.3	1.0	1.0	14.6	14.2	9.4	9.7
PHP	1.29	1,460	HOLD	1.30	1.23	1.21	22.1	21.1	4.3	4.5	1.0	1.1	25.5	22.7	2.5	4.7
Real Estate Investors*	0.52	97	BUY	0.75	0.73	0.72	12.9	12.4	7.3	7.7	1.1	1.1	17.3	16.8	7.7	8.1
Safestore	5.90	1,239	BUY	6.50	1.40	1.31	20.8	19.2	2.9	3.2	1.7	1.7	20.4	18.8	5.3	5.8
Segro	6.61	7,171	BUY	7.50	0.96	0.92	28.4	26.2	3.0	3.1	1.2	1.2	31.2	29.5	3.3	3.6
Shaftesbury*	8.89	2,733	HOLD	10.50	0.88	0.85	48.4	44.5	2.0	2.1	1.0	1.0	39.8	38.0	2.0	2.1
St Modwen	4.05	901	BUY	4.65	0.81	0.76	24.1	17.9	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	18.6	14.1	8.0	10.0
Town Centre Securities*	2.13	113	BUY	3.00	0.61	0.59	17.8	17.0	5.6	5.6	1.0	1.0	22.6	23.7	3.8	3.6
Tritax Big Box	1.44	2,453	HOLD	1.55	0.93	0.90	21.7	20.3	4.8	4.9	1.0	1.0	27.4	25.7	4.7	5.1
U+I*	1.85	232	BUY	2.80	0.60	0.58	8.7	9.8	7.5	6.9	1.5	1.5	10.0	10.7	10.2	9.1
Unite	9.08	2,392	HOLD	9.50	1.00	0.95	21.9	20.8	4.0	4.2	1.1	1.2	22.9	21.6	4.4	(0.8)
Workspace*	9.87	1,780	BUY	12.25	0.88	0.86	22.6	20.2	3.6	4.0	1.2	1.2	24.1	22.1	4.6	5.2
Simple average		2,059			0.87	0.85	21.9	20.6	4.1	4.2	1.3	1.3	27.0	25.0	4.9	5.0
Weighted average					0.86	0.84	22.5	21.1	3.8	4.0	1.2	1.2	29.2	27.0	4.2	4.3

Source: Liberum, Bloomberg, Company. *Liberum corporate client

Target price 125p to 130p

We increase our target price from 125p to 130p, to reflect the benefits of the merger. 130p would equate to a CY19E P/NAV of 1.25x, a P/E of 22x and DPS yield of 4.3%.

We use a return on equity analysis to inform our target price. We compare our forecasts against our view of sustainable return on equity (in the absence of yield shift), cost of equity and long-term growth.

We build up individual company cost of equity, using specific risk profiles over a risk-free rate, benchmarked against CAPM.

Income and capital return valuation	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E	Target price
DuPont RoE Analysis					•••
Asset turnover (%)	5.6%	7.6%	5.5%	5.6%	
x Net EBIT margin (%)	87.0%	90.7%	91.3%	91.7%	
x Interest burden (%)	55.3%	59.2%	57.6%	57.8%	
x Tax & other burden (%)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
= Income RoA (%)	2.7%	4.1%	2.9%	3.0%	
x Financial leverage (%)	218.4%	185.9%	203.8%	209.1%	
= Income RoE (%)	5.9%	7.6%	5.8%	6.2%	6.0%
Capital RoE (exc. retained income %)	4.6%	-1.0%	1.5%	-0.4%	1.0%
Total return (%)	10.5%	6.6%	7.4%	5.8%	7.0%
Valuation Analysis					
Total return (%)	10.5%	6.6%	7.4%	5.8%	7.0%
Liberum cost of equity calculation	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
LT nominal growth (g)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Implied P/NAV (ROE-g/COE-g)					1.41
EPRA NAV (p)	105.1	104.3	106.2	106.2	107.8
CY NAV (p)	105.1	104.3	106.2	106.2	107.8
Implied FV price (p)					152
Discount factor		1.00	0.95	0.90	0.85
NPV (p)					130
CY P/NAV (x)	1.24	1.25	1.22	1.22	
CY P/E (x)	25.0	22.3	21.3	19.8	
CY EPS yield (%)	4.0%	4.5%	4.7%	5.1%	
CY DPS yield (%)	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%	
Upside/(downside)					0.8%

Figure 21: Target Price assumptions

Source: Liberum

Our key assumptions are:

- 7.0% total returns: factoring continued mid-single digit income return, with low capital enhancement owing to a delay to development approvals and no further yield compression. PHP generates a higher equity return than Assura, given its higher financial leverage.
- 5.4% cost of equity: this rate is built up from a risk free rate, with Liberum assumptions for tenancy risk (GP surgeries low), obsolescence, operating costs, liquidity and financial risk (above Assura given its higher financial leverage and international exposure).

Primary Health Properties - Liberum charts



Source: Liberum





Source: Liberum

Figure 26: Equivalent yield progression



Source: Liberum, Company

Figure 28: LTV



Source: Liberum, Company

Figure 23: Premium/(discount) to NAV



Source: Liberum



Source: Liberum, Company

Figure 27: Spread NIY vs. cost of debt



Source: Liberum, Company

Figure 29: Weighted average cost of debt



Source: Liberum, Company

Financial model

Figure 30: Summary forecasts

Key Assumptions - Dec Y/E	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
True equivalent yield Average annualised uplift	5.8% 1.8%	5.5% 0.9%	5.4% 0.9%	5.1% 1.1%	5.0% 1.4%	5.0% 1.7%	5.0% 2.0%	5.0% 2.2%
Income Statement (£m) - prop consolidated	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Gross rental income	60.0	63.1	67.4	72.5	79.6	117.8	135.6	145.3
Net operating income (NOI)	59.3	62.3	66.6	71.3	76.4	114.6	131.8	141.1
% change	42.5%	5.1%	6.9%	7.1%	7.2%	50.0%	15.0%	7.1%
EBITDA	52.5	55.5	59.2	62.6	66.5	104.0	120.3	129.4
% change	47.8%	5.7%	6.8%	5.7%	6.2%	56.3%	15.8%	7.5%
EBIT, adj	52.5	55.5	59.2	62.6	66.5	104.0	120.3	129.4
Net interest	(34.3)	(33.7)	(32.5)	(31.6)	(29.7)	(42.4)	(51.1)	(54.6)
PBT, adj	18.2	21.7	26.7	31.0	36.8	61.6	69.3	74.8
EPRA EPS (p)	4.1	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.2	5.8	6.1	6.6
% change	54.0%	19.0%	-2.0%	7.9%	0.6%	12.0%	4.8%	7.8%
DPS (p)	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.1
% change	1.3%	2.6%	2.5%	2.4%	2.9%	2.8%	4.5%	5.2%
Dividend cover	84%	2.6% 98%	93%	2.4% 99%	2.9% 96%	105%	4.5%	5.2% 108%
Balance Sheet (£m) - prop consolidated	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Investment & development property	1026	1101	1220	1362	1503	20192	2526	20212
Net debt	(662)	(701)	(668)	(733)	(677)	(1188)	(1277)	(1363)
Other net assets	(55)	(55)	(53)	(42)	(38)	(59)	(59)	(59)
Net assets	309	345	499	587	788	1167	1191	1194
Adjustments	45	46	46	37	21	17	17	17
EPRA NAV	355	392	545	624	809	1184	1208	1211
EPRA NAV (p)	80	88	91	101	105	104	106	106
% change	6.4%	10.1%	3.8%	10.5%	4.4%	-0.8%	1.8%	0.0%
Loan to value	64%	63%	54%	53%	45%	49%	51%	52%
Net debt / net assets	187%	179%	123%	117%	84%	100%	106%	112%
Cash Flow (£m)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Operating cash flow	46.6	57.1	56.8	60.1	68.5	79.5	120.8	129.9
Net interest	(47.0)	(33.4)	(31.1)	(30.1)	(28.8)	(43.6)	(52.3)	(55.8)
Tax	(0.0)	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Free cash flow	(0.4)	23.8	25.7	30.0	39.7	35.9	68.6	74.1
Acquisitions & Disposals	(54.9)	(29.5)	(97.4)	(75.4)	(101.9)	(117.0)	(117.0)	(117.0)
Total dividends	(20.7)	(21.1)	(24.7)	(29.8)	(34.7)	(55.7)	(61.2)	(64.4)
Issue of equity	(0.0)	(0.1)	145.2	(0.1)	111.0	26.6	0.0	0.0
Change in borrowings	80.9	20.0	(31.8)	82.3	(5.6)	530.4	88.5	86.0
Other	(2.1)	(2.2)	(14.8)	(8.8)	(7.1)	(420.2)	21.2	21.2
Net incr. (dec.) in cash	2.8	(9.2)	2.2	(1.8)	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Key Ratios	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
NOI margin	98.8%	98.7%	98.7%	98.3%	96.0%	97.3%	97.2%	97.2%
EBITDA margin	87.5%	87.9%	87.8%	86.3%	83.5%	88.2%	88.8%	89.0%
EBITDA / Net Interest	1.53x	1.64x	1.82x	1.98x	2.24x	2.45x	2.36x	2.37x
ROE (EPRA EPS / opening NAV)	5.5%	6.1%	5.4%	5.7%	5.2%	5.5%	5.8%	6.2%
LFL property revaluation	2.8%	3.8%	1.7%	5.0%	2.5%	0.5%	0.6%	-0.3%
Total Return (NAV growth + DPS)	12.9%	16.4%	9.7%	16.3%	9.7%	4.5%	7.4%	5.8%
Valuation metrics	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
P/NAV	1.62x	1.47x	1.41x	1.28x	1.23x	1.23x	1.21x	1.21x
EV/EBITDA	23.5x	23.0x	23.5x	24.1x	23.9x	24.5x	22.8x	21.9x
P/E (adj)	31.4x	26.4x	26.9x	25.0x	24.8x	22.1x	21.1x	19.6x
Dividend yield	3.8%	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%	4.7%
Implied yield (NOI / EV)	4.8%	4.9%	4.8%	4.7%	4.8%	4.5%	4.8%	5.0%

Source: Liberum, Company

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